United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.6/Add.25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 June 2000

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
5-30 June 2000 (Part I)

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 22. Palestine refugees

1. At its 20th meeting, on 21 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. It was observed that the proposed medium-term plan was well designed and addressed the important role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in addressing the problems of Palestine refugees. The plan's overall orientation, objectives, strategy, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were welcomed. Appreciation was expressed for the work of UNRWA. The inclusion of facilitation of self-reliance among Palestine refugees and expansion of income-generating opportunities among the objectives of the plan was also welcomed.

4. Concern was expressed regarding the adequacy of the resources available to enable UNRWA to continue its work. Support was expressed for making additional resources available to UNRWA. It was stated that the international community, including the private sector, should be encouraged to work with UNRWA to expand its donor base.

00-50176 (E) 290600

5. The efforts of UNRWA to streamline its operations and to achieve cost savings through productivity gains were welcomed. However, it was observed that UNRWA had already reached a point where further cutbacks were no longer possible.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve programme 22 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the deletion of paragraph 22.10.